ADJOURNMENT MOTION

re: Government Reply on the Question of Constitutional Reforms.

Mr. President.—Mr. P. Govinda Menon has given notice of an adjournment motion "*to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the extremely unsatisfactory character of the reply made by the Government with regard to the demand for Constitutional Reforms made during the general discussion of the budget.*" I have to ask the Hon'ble Member to tell me if this poes not fall within rule 19 (4) by which there cannot be any discussion on a matter which has been previously put down for consideration at a later stage. There are five cut motions on constitutional reforms and in view of this the question raised in this motion has already been put down for discussion.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Adur).*—The issue raised in my motion is not the demand for constitutional reforms. That demand has been made on several occasions and the question has been satisfactorily debated upon. The cut motions that come up for discussion when the demand is being voted are for demanding constitutional reforms. But my adjournment motion refers to the unsatisfactory character of the reply made by the Government, so that the issue which I want to raise will be the attitude of the Government in reply to this question. We need not discuss the question of the merits of the demand for constitutional reforms.

Mr. President.—I do not think there can be any discussion of the unsatisfactory reply of the Government Member to the question of constitutional reforms without covering the whole field of constitutional reforms. I can frankly say that there can be no dicussion on a question like that. If Hon'ble Members are not satisfied with the way in which Government have responded, their point will be covered when the discussion is taken up on the cut motions.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Adur).*—When a vote is taken upon a cut motion, we will vote only on the merits of the motion but not on the attitude of the Government. Here I want to raise the specific issue on the stand taken by the Government with regard to the demand made for constitutional reforms.

Mr. President.—That is, the attitude of the Government with regard to constitutional reforms.

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Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Adur).*—The attitude of the Government has already been made clear.

Mr. President.—If it is the intention of the Hon'ble Member that he seeks to censure the Government because a certain answer had not been satisfactory, then every day there may be a motion.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I bring to the notice of the Government the tip that was given by the President ?

Mr. President.—I remember that perfectly well. That is placing the discussion on a substantial motion. Therefore the discussion can only be upon constitutional reforms.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—Mr. President, I submit that the discussion will be on the stand that the Government took as far as the request for constitutional reforms advanced in various forms during the general discussion of the budget running over two days is concerned. The Government Secretary is seen to have disposed of the whole matter by referring us to the speech of the Hon'ble President. We expected something from the President, but that also we did not have. In view of that disappointment we just want to try whether we will be able to discuss that issue and bring that into prominence viz. the unsatisfactory nature of the Government position regarding grant of constitutional reforms.

Mr. President.—If the Government Secretary did not go into elaborate details, it is for the simple reason that there are a number of cut motions on the subject. Naturally Government Members avoid going into details on points which have been specifically put down in the nature of cut motions. The discussion can only be on the merits of constitutional reforms, especially the unresponsiveness of the Government to the demand for constitutional reforms.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Adur).*—The objection raised is a technical one. I shall meet the technicality by a technicality. If you go by that then the adjournment is technically in order, because the issue raised is different from the issue raised in the cut motion.

Mr. President.—If the Hon'ble Member thinks that the issue raised is simply that the answer is not satisfactory then it is not a matter of urgent public importance. Otherwise there can be any number of motions.

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Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Adur).*—But the subject is important.

Mr. President.—Yes, but not the answer. The motion is clearly out of order.

Motion was ruled out of order.

VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

15— General Administration—Rs. 96,066.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—Sir, I rise to move that this House may be pleased to grant a sum of Rs. 96,066 under 15—General Administration. Sir, I do not propose to preface my request with any lengthy speech. The details of the different items of expenditure are in the budget placed in the hands of the Hon'ble Members. I find that there are as many as 50 cuts tabled to discuss this demand. It is gratifying to find that all the 49 of them are token cuts intended to criticise a particular action of Government or to draw the attention of Government to any particular aspect of any matter. There is only one substantial cut which deals with the Publicity Officer. As the cut motions will be moved soon, I would reserve whatever the Government have to say with reference to each of these motions at the proper time. I request the House will be pleased to grant this demand.

Motion No. 1.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—*"To omit the allotment of Rs. 2,500 for Publicity Officer and staff. No necessity for same."*

Sir, the point of my motion is that there is no necessity for the appointment of a Publicity Officer at present. It is one of the ornaments or rather I would call it one of the luxuries of all modern Governments. I do not know the exact nature of the activities of this officer but from what I gather from the proceedings of the Govennment which announced this appointment the main object of appointing him or of creating that post is this. Says the proceedings "It has been brought to the notice of the Government that of late certain newspapers published in the neighbouring areas of the State have been giving publicity to false and unfounded statements thereby creating alarm to the State. In the interests of administration it is therefore necessary to issue contradictions in such cases. It is also found by experience that some machinery of the State

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